

Organise an environmental clean-up event!

Spring is on its way and the snow is melting. The melting snow reveals litter, which makes our environment less pleasant to be in. The City of Helsinki wants to support the voluntary collection of litter and clean-up events organised by the residents by providing cleaning equipment on-site and disposing of the litter collected.

Join us and gather a group of volunteers! The purpose of voluntary clean-up events is to clean public areas, i.e. forests, parks, roadsides and shores. Cleaning private plots and yard areas is not part of voluntary clean-up events. You can register your voluntary clean-up event online at puistotalkoot.hel.fi. Voluntary clean-up events can also be registered by phone by calling the Urban Environment Division's customer service, tel. +358 (0)9 3102 2111.

If you run into any problems registering, please contact Voluntary Work Coordinator Armi Koskela, whose contact details are provided at the end of this bulletin.

Register your voluntary clean-up event in good time – no later than 8 days before the event

1. Each registration is sent to the regional voluntary work contact person for approval.
2. Once the event has been approved, you will receive a confirmation message featuring the voluntary work contact person's contact details. They will provide you with the cleaning equipment and handle the pick-up of collected litter for your event. You can agree on the details of your spring-cleaning event with the contact person.
3. If your voluntary clean-up event takes place at a weekend or on a public holiday, the cleaning equipment will be delivered on the preceding weekday and picked up on the next weekday after the event. In such a case, please ensure that you have a place for storing the equipment before and after the event.

Important information – tips for a successful voluntary clean-up event

The purpose of voluntary clean-up events is to **only collect litter that does not belong in nature**, not organic matter such as leaves and sticks. Event attendees are provided with litter pickers and refuse sacks. Gloves are not provided. If you wish to rake in addition to picking up litter, please agree on this with your local voluntary work contact person. The City of Helsinki's contractor will loan out the equipment and pick up filled refuse sacks and other waste after the clean-up event. The litter must be gathered and deposited in a pre-determined place or the pick-up location must be reported to the voluntary work contact person after the event.

Demountable containers will only be provided for large clean-up events, and their delivery will be decided by the regional voluntary work contact person.

Putting sand in the refuse sacks is prohibited! If there are large amounts of crushed gritting aggregate in an area, the collection thereof must be agreed upon separately with the area's voluntary work contact person.

Watch out for sharp objects, such as glass shards and hypodermic needles, when collecting litter. Piles of leaves or litter should not be touched by hand. Always use a litter picker to pick up litter.

Hypodermic needles must not be placed in litter bins or refuse sacks unprotected to avoid injuries when collecting the sacks. Needles should be collected in a closable, compact container (such as a bottle with a cap), which can then be placed in a mixed waste container, or put aside and reported to the voluntary work contact person. If you find large amounts of needles, please leave them be and report them to the contact person.

Any metal waste, waste electrical and electronic equipment (WEEE, such as TVs, computers, stereos), hazardous waste (such as batteries, oil canisters), tyres and wood waste (such as timber, wooden furniture) must be **sorted and separated** into their own piles. Tyres and other large scrap items do not need to be placed in sacks. If there is a demountable container at the event, sort the waste on the container. Waste must not be put in the container mixed.

Volunteers participating in clean-up events work at their own or the event organiser's responsibility. The City of Helsinki has not insured volunteers participating in clean-up events.

Yle's national *Miljoona roskapussia* ('Million bags of litter') campaign starting on 15 April

This spring, all Finnish people are once again urged to pick up a million bags of litter. The number of bags of litter collected will be shown in a real-time counter on the yle.fi/miljoonaroskapussia web page. Anyone can take part in the campaign and no separate registration is required.

The campaign was held for the first time in the spring of 2023, with more than 200,000 bags of litter entered into the counter. The campaign involves more than 140 cities and municipalities, several operators related to environmental wellbeing, and the Finnish National Agency for Education. The City of Helsinki will also take part, for the second time now.

How to take part in the campaign:

1. Get a litter picker, gloves and an empty bag.
2. Go outside – by yourself or with a group.
3. Pick up litter from the environment.
4. Take the litter you have picked up to a mixed waste collection point when your bag is full.
5. Enter the number of bags of litter you have picked up to the information of your location at yle.fi/miljoonaroskapussia.
6. Challenge your friends to take part!

More about Yle's *Miljoona roskapussia* campaign in Finnish: yle.fi/miljoonaroskapussia

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In cooperation with:

